



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/587,258   | 07/26/2006  | Akihiko Fujii        | 293717US0PCT        | 6672             |
| 22850  | 7590        | 07/23/2009           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.<br>1940 DUKE STREET<br>ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 |             |                      | KING, FELICIA C     |                  |
|  |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             |                      | 1794                |                  |
|  |             |                      | NOTIFICATION DATE   | DELIVERY MODE    |
|  |             |                      | 07/23/2009          | ELECTRONIC       |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com  
oblonpat@oblon.com  
jgardner@oblon.com

|                              |                        |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/587,258             | FUJII ET AL.        |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | FELICIA C. KING        | 1794                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2009.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
     1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
     2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
     3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .                                    |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/17/09</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                        |

## DETAILED ACTION

Examiner notes that on line 1 of the Request for Reconsideration, applicant states that claims 1-7 remain active. Original claims are listed as 1-8. In reference to the newly submitted claims and the fee worksheet there is no indication that claim 8 to be considered cancelled. Therefore claims 1-8 are still considered pending in the application.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. **Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stelkens (GB 354,942) Sosuke et al. (JP 6-315434 Translation).**

**Regarding Claim 1:** Stelkens discloses a coffee composition where poisonous substances are removed using a zinc chloride activated carbon [page 1, lines 12-26 and Page 1, lines 95-106]. Further, Sosuke discloses a coffee composition where “coffee poor ingredients” are removed by filtering coffee through activated carbon near 30 -100 Å in size, coconut husk activated carbon near 10Å in size, or zeolite (an absorbent mineral mix) around 1-5 Å in size [0007, 0011, 0013, 0014].

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in that art having Stelkens and Sosuke before him or her that mixing the coffee grounds in Stelkens with activated carbon having the Å (angstrom) sizes as disclosed in Sosuke would result in a product having reduced levels of poisonous substances such as HHQ. The coffee grounds in Stelkens are treated using a very similar process as in the instant specification [See instant Application Example 7] because Stelkens uses a similar activated chloride method as discussed in the instant claim and Sosuke uses the same particles sizes as discussed in the instant application, it would have been

obvious that the treatment of coffee grounds with activated carbon having similar Å size would result in a coffee product having significantly reduced levels/removal of poisonous substances such as HHQ and to continue to reduce the levels of undesirable chemicals such as HHQ in coffee by using the activated carbon method, until the desired level/removal of the poisonous substance was obtained. Stelkens' and Sosuke's failure to specifically recite the removal of the named substance HHQ does not negate the fact that a poisonous substance such a HHQ is removed by the activated carbon method at the disclosed particle size.

**Regarding Claim 2:** Stelkens and Sosuke disclose a coffee composition treated in a similar manner as described above and as such it would have been obvious that the coffee composition would have similar properties when analyzed by HPLC as the coffee composition in the instant claims.

**Regarding Claim 6:** Stelkens discloses treatment via activated carbon [lines 96-99]. Sosuke discloses treatment via activated carbon [0007, 0011, 0013, 0014].

**Regarding Claim 7:** Stelkens discloses carbon activated by the zinc chloride method [lines 96-100].

3. **Claims 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stelkens (GB 354,942) in view of Sosuke et al. (JP 6-315434 Translation) and Schlichter (US 3,615,666).**

4. **Regarding Claim 3:** Stelkens discloses a coffee composition treated to remove poisonous materials as discussed above but does not disclose a soluble coffee composition. Sosuke discloses removing "coffee poor ingredients" by using activated carbon as discussed above. However, Schlichter discloses a soluble coffee composition [col. 1, lines 4-9].

5. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art having the teachings of Stelkens, Sosuke, and Schlichter before him or her to modify the composition of Stelkens to include a soluble coffee composition as in Schlichter because it provides an faster alternative to the traditional brewed coffee as desired by consumers.

6. **Regarding Claim 8:** Stelkens discloses the coffee composition as discussed above but do not disclose spray drying or freeze drying the composition. Sosuke discloses removing “coffee poor ingredients” by using activated carbon as discussed above. However, Schlichter discloses a composition made by freeze drying or spray drying [col.3, lines 51-55].

7. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art having the teachings of Stelkens, Sosuke, and Schlichter before him or her to modify the composition of Stelkens to include a soluble coffee composition as in Schlichter because it provides an faster alternative to the traditional brewed coffee as desired by consumers. Further it is very well known in the art that soluble/instant coffees are prepared by freeze drying.

8. **Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stelkens (GB 354,942) in view of Sosuke et al. (JP 6-315434 Translation) and Behrman (US Patent Number 2,430,663).**

9. **Regarding Claim 4:** Stelkens discloses a coffee composition as discussed above but does not specify providing the coffee in a package. Sosuke discloses removing “coffee poor ingredients” by using activated carbon as discussed above. Behrman discloses a packaged dry coffee composition [col.1, lines 6-10].

10. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art having the teachings of Stelkens and Behrman before him or her to modify the coffee composition

of Stelkens to include a packaging mechanism because packaging maintains the qualities and flavors of coffee [Behrman col.1, lines 24-27].

**11. Regarding Claim 5:** Stelkens discloses a coffee composition and as such would be expected to have similar properties as analyzed by HPLC as discussed above. Sosuke discloses removing “coffee poor ingredients” by using activated carbon as discussed above. Behrman discloses packaging the coffee product as discussed above.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicants have overcome 112 2<sup>nd</sup> rejections of claims 2, 5, and 7 for lack of antecedent basis by amending the claims.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 in the Request for Reconsideration filed 4/24/09 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 **are newly rejected** under Stelkens (GB 354,942) and Sosuke et al. (JP 6-315434 Translation).

Claims 3 and 8 **are newly rejected** under Stelkens (GB 354,942) Sosuke et al. (JP 6-315434 Translation) and Schlichter (US 3,615,666).

Claims 4 and 5 **are newly rejected** under Stelkens (GB 354,942) Sosuke et al. (JP 6-315434 Translation) and Behrman (US 2,430,663).

Examiner agrees that the Stelkens reference does not explicitly disclose a reduction of HHQ. However, in order to obtain a coffee composition having reduced poisonous substances (Stelkens) and reduced “coffee poor ingredients” (Sosuke), these coffee products are exposed to similar chemicals and processes as in the instant application and therefore would be considered to produce a similar product. Further, Stelkens combined with Sosuke overcomes applicant's experiment disclosed in the declaration. In the declaration, the parameters of Stelkens were duplicated.

However, Stelkens discloses a carbon particle size of .3mm and does not explicitly disclose the specific type of carbon, which may be an important factor in the removal of HHQ. Sosuke speaks to the deficiency in Stelkens by disclosing a filter having the desired particle size and also by using coconut husk activated carbon [0013, 0014], parameters which the applicant has disclosed as favorable in the removal of HHQ [10/587258 Specification; 0022].

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FELICIA C. KING whose telephone number is (571)270-3733. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon- Thu 7:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.; Fri 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer McNeil can be reached on 571-272-1540. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/F. K./  
Examiner, Art Unit 1794

/JENNIFER MCNEIL/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794